CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing resources in a network controller connecting to a plurality of interfaces comprising:

recognizing a transition in the phase of a call transported through said controller; and

modifying the size of the call record of said call in accordance with the type of phase transition recognized.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein recognizing includes:

receiving a call message for said call; and

processing said call message, said call message potentially indicating said phase transition.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said call is a point-to-point call.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said phase is one of idle, establishment, active and release phases.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein modifying includes:

discarding said call record if said transition is to the idle phase.

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein modifying includes:

compressing said call record by removing establishment phase related fields if said transition is from the establishment phase to the active phase.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein modifying includes:

expanding said compressed call record by adding release phase related fields if said transition is from the active phase to the release phase.

8. A method according to claim 6 comprising:

completing the release of said call using said compressed call record if said transition is from the active phase to the release phase.

9. A method according to claim 2, wherein said call is a point-to-multi-point call.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said phase is one of idle, establishment, active, add party, drop party and release phases.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein modifying includes:

discarding said call record if said transition is to the idle phase.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein modifying includes:

compressing said call record by removing establishment phase related fields if said transition is from the establishment phase to the active phase.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein modifying includes:

expanding said compressed call record by adding release phase related fields if said transition is from the active phase to the release phase.

14. A method according to claim 12 comprising:

completing the release of said call using said compressed call record if said transition is from the active phase to the release phase.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein modifying includes:

expanding said compressed call record by adding add party phase related fields if said transition is from the active phase to the add party phase.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein modifying includes:

compressing said expanded call record by removing add party phase related fields if said transition is from the add party phase to the active phase.

17. A method according to claim 12, wherein modifying includes:

expanding said compressed call record by adding drop party phase related fields if said transition is from the active phase to the drop party phase.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein modifying includes:

compressing said expanded call record by removing drop party phase related fields if said transition is from the drop party phase to the active phase.

19. A method according to claim 1, wherein said interfaces define physical connections between the node in which said controller resides and other nodes connected said node in which said controller resides and define physical connections between the node in which said controller resides and user terminals belonging to said node in which said controller resides.

20. A system including a network switching controller capable of supporting a plurality of interfaces, said apparatus comprising:

a processor adapted to process call messages received on said interfaces, and adapted to recognize said call's phase transition; and

a memory coupled to said processor, said processor modifying the size of the call record of said call as stored

in said memory in accordance with the type of phase transition recognized.

21. An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions which when executed manages resources in a network controller connecting a plurality of interfaces, said instructions when executed causing:

recognizing a transition in the phase of a call transported through said controller; and

modifying the size of the call record of said call in accordance with the type of phase transition recognized.

22. An apparatus for managing resources in a network controller having a plurality of interfaces comprising:

means for recognizing a transition in the phase of a call transported through said controller; and

means for modifying the size of the call record of said call in accordance with the type of phase transition recognized.

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